

TSMC99-646BC

PLEASE AMEND THE DRAWINGS AS FOLLOWS:

Please amend Figs. 6 and 7B, wherein metal sidewalls or spacers 8c, now overlay only a portion of the top surface of recessed metal plug structure 7b, resulting in a space between metal spacers at the bottom of via hole opening 6b. The space now exposes a portion of the top surface of recessed metal plug structure 7b. The amended figures are now consistent with Fig. 7A, in which the space between metal spacers is clearly shown, exposing a portion of the top surface of recessed metal plug structure 7b.